THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) Government requested for 'fair and just' treatment for Dr. Mohammed Haneef under Australian law.

(c) The Australian Government dropped the criminal charges against Dr. Mohammed Haneef and Dr. Haneef returned to India on July 29, 2007.

Visa to IAS official by China

†515. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China retains its claim on Arunachal Pradesh of India and as a result it has refused visa while expressing its objection to an IAS official of Arunachal Pradesh cadre/original resident; and

(b) if so, the complete details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. China illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector. An officer of the Arunachal Pradesh cadre of the Indian Administrative Service was refused a visa to visit China for a study tour in May, 2007. Government have taken up this issue through diplomatic channels and reiterated to the Chinese Government that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

Poverty alleviation schemes

516. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central schemes currently in operation in various States for poverty alleviation;

(b) whether there is any monitoring mechanism available for watching the performance of these schemes;

(c) whether these schemes have been reviewed recently; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor and to reduce the urban poverty in the country, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing a centrally

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.